

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-15 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Independent claims 1 and 12 comprise the limitation "wherein the installation opening has a diameter larger than the width of the support and less than the combination of the width of the support and the width of the guide part that protrudes laterally beyond the edge of the support." The prior art of record, in particular the Kato reference, fails to disclose this limitation there is no installation opening mentioned. Further, although it may have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to have placed the sensor in a tank through an installation opening, it would not have been obvious to use such an opening which was smaller in width than the support and guide claimed as this would potentially hinder the installation process. Rather, one would assume that while installing the sensor of Kato, one would use an installation opening larger than the diameter claimed, in order to allow the sensor to be inserted into the tank with little possibility of damage. The Totten reference also fails to teach these limitations as claimed. As all dependent claims ultimately depend from either claim 1 or 12, they are deemed allowable for similar reasons.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MARK SHABMAN whose telephone number is (571)270-3263. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00am - 4:30pm, EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hezron Williams can be reached on (571) 272-2208. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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